

JORDAN TIMES

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 جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1978 — SAFAR 16, 1398.

Ethiopia denies Somali reports
 LONDON, Jan. 24 (R). — Ethiopia today denied Somali reports that Somali forces were fighting in the streets of the strategic walled city of Harar. A spokesman for the Ethiopian Embassy here told Reuters that claims by Mogadishu Radio that Somalis had penetrated Harar and taken the town of Babelle were "pure fabrication". Addis Ababa radio claimed today that the people of Harar, the mountain headquarters of government troops in the Ogaden, had asked to take over defence duties in the province. The radio said the people of Harar had staged a mass rally at which they asked to take over "revolutionary defence duties enabling the men in uniform to mount a full scale counter attack..." against Somali forces.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Five-power parley on Somalia
 LONDON, Jan. 24 (AP). — Representatives of five western powers will meet in London next Tuesday for their consultations on the situation in the Horn of Africa, informed sources said today. The five countries — Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and the United States. The meeting follows a similar one on Saturday by the five in Washington and will convene top officials. Both Britain and France have called the Horn of Africa situation "disturbing". An authoritative source meanwhile said that before the date of meeting, the five powers might give an answer to Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre's request, made Jan. 16, for war material.

Volume 3, Number 680

King Hussein: Lack of moral courage among Israeli leaders is obstacle to peace
 AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein last night said the suspension of the Egyptian-Israeli talks to the "lack of moral courage" on the part of Israeli leaders. In an interview with ABC television screened here Monday the King said this was responsible for Israel's failure to a decision to restore the Arab lands occupied in 1967 to their owners so as to make a peace agreement possible. King Hussein went on to say that the Arabs lost all hope of peace with Israel and that they might resort to war as a result in the long run.

The King expressed his hope in avoiding a new war in the area and said that he was ready to go to the end of the world to achieve peace. He said that the return of the lands that were under his rule was a matter of time. He said that the Arabs were ready to accept a peace treaty with Israel, but that Israel was not ready to do so. He said that the Arabs were ready to accept a peace treaty with Israel, but that Israel was not ready to do so. He said that the Arabs were ready to accept a peace treaty with Israel, but that Israel was not ready to do so.

King Hussein sends message to Khaled
 AMMAN, Jan. 24 (R). — Crown Prince Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia today received a message from His Majesty King Hussein addressed to King Khaled, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, reported.

Prince Hassan leads packed schedule on 2nd day of U.S. visit
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His Majesty King Hussein chats with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Suhaim bin Hamad Al Thani at the Royal Hashemite Court Tuesday. (JNA photo)

Qatari minister leaves Amman
 AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Suhaim bin Hamad Al Thani left here today after a one-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other officials.

The present Arab situation and bilateral relations were discussed, the Jordan News Agency said.

Fighting flares in South Lebanon; rightists strengthen position
 BEIRUT, Lebanon, Jan. 24 (AP). — Rightwing Christian forces claimed today they had overrun the village of Blat, a Palestinian guerrilla stronghold 14 kms. north of the Israeli border in south Lebanon.

Local administration officials in the south said fleeing villagers reported Blat changed hands almost hourly in repeated attacks and counter-attacks. "We simply don't know who holds the village now," said one official in the port city of Sidon, 40 kms. south of Beirut. "Refugees told us the fighting involved some savage hand-to-hand combat."

Mr. Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Beirut had no immediate comment, but a spokesman said guerrillas and Israeli-backed rightists exchanged mortar and artillery fire in the south for the third night running. The new flare-up coincided with heightened demands by Lebanon's Christian warlords that Palestinian armed presence should be ended in Lebanon as a precondition for a reconciliation with the nation's Muslim half of the population. The rightist Voice of Lebanon radio station claimed eight guerrillas were killed in a Christian attack mounted shortly after midnight on the guerrilla-held village of Blat.

The broadcast said the attackers sneaked out of the Christian stronghold of Marjayoun "stormed Blat in a successful surprise" attack and finished a mop-up operation by dawn. Blat is about 1.5 kms. north of Marjayoun. It has a predominantly Muslim Shi'ite population estimated at about 2,000.

Mortar and artillery exchanges started in the south early Sunday, shattering a lull that followed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's dramatic trip to Jerusalem in November last year. The fighting escalated Monday, sending hundreds of villagers fleeing from the guerrilla stronghold of Khiam and the adjacent Christian stronghold of Qlefa, both about three kms. from the Israeli border.

The governor's office in Sidon, provincial capital of the south, reported four villagers were killed in Monday's exchanges between Khiam and Qlefa. If the Christian claim of capturing Blat is correct, it is still in orbit. Other U.S. satellites have carried radioactive isotopes to power electrical generators. These isotopes are usually a form of U-235, a less dangerous form of radioactive material. Dr. Brzezinski's announcement climaxed about two weeks of intensive consultations between U.S. and Soviet officials as it became apparent that the Russian satellite was going to drop out of orbit. Dr. Brzezinski said the disintegration of the Soviet satellite was completed over Great Slave Lake in Canada's northwest territories, a sparsely populated area. Dr. Brzezinski said U.S. planes were dispatched to the area to sample the atmosphere and look for any possible contamination. He said that based on scientific experience, it was "very highly probable it would burn up."

Vance calls for period of quiet in Mideast peace negotiations
 WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (R). — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance today called for a period of quiet in the Middle East peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Reporting to Congress on his recent trip to the area, during which Egypt recalled its delegation from talks in Jerusalem over a declaration of principles to govern a comprehensive settlement, Mr. Vance said:

"There are still difficult issues which remain to be resolved which relate to the declaration of principles. It is our hope that the talks could be resumed in the not too distant future and I think that one of the most important things that can be done now is to have a period of quiet in which they could get down to discussions in closed sessions."

Mr. Vance's remarks before the House of Representatives International Relations Committee followed a White House statement last night after he briefed President Carter on his trip that ended on Sunday. The statement urged Egypt and Israel to resume quickly the parallel negotiations between their defence ministers in Cairo dealing with Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai desert. "The president and the secretary expressed the hope that the public exchanges of recent days are now behind us and that every effort will be made to recapture the spirit that followed recent meetings between Prime Minister (Menachem) Begin and President (Anwar) Sadat and to turn full attention through quiet diplomacy to the substance of the negotiations," the White House statement said.

Mr. Vance told reporters yesterday after testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on another topic that he believed Egypt and Israel "would pass through this period" and that their talks could be resumed. After hearing his brief opening remarks today, the house panel closed its meeting to the public while it listened to a detailed report from Mr. Vance on the Middle East situation. He is to testify further to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee tomorrow.

Meanwhile, at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel, scene of the disrupted foreign ministers' talks, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton cooled his heels waiting for signs of a return to the negotiating table. During the day he met the Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Ephraim Evron. Last night he saw Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. But an aide described these talks as purely informal and exploratory. He dismissed Israeli Radio reports from Washington that Mr. Atherton had significantly reduced the gap that existed at the time of the walkout. "We're in a period of clarification and it's up to the parties to decide how they want to act now," the official said. A suggestion increasingly heard is for negotiations to be resumed in "proximity talks" — with Mr. Atherton or another American mediator, shuttling between the two sides.

Egyptian press continues attack on Begin
 CAIRO, Jan. 24 (R). — Egyptian newspapers today continued their attack on Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and the stalled Egyptian-Israeli peace talks could be restarted. But Foreign Ministry officials said proposals presented here last week by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to break the present deadlock were still under study.

The mass-circulation Al Akhbar said Mr. Begin's accusation of anti-Semitism by Egypt could not even convince a child, while the English-language Egyptian Gazette said Egypt's press "neither suffers fools gladly nor will it put up for long with the base and deceitful methods used by the Israeli leadership." Mr. Begin said yesterday he hoped the atmosphere between the two countries would improve so that negotiations could resume. Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Kamel said both sides should sit down quietly and review their position.

In the light of this, it would be decided within the next few days whether the peace talks could be resumed, Mr. Kamel said. But he added there should be an agreement on principles before any resumption of the talks. Mr. Kamel speaking to reporters did not make clear what principles he had in mind.

Syria boosts military might as reconciliation with Iraq draws nearer
 BEIRUT, Jan. 24 (R). — Syria has announced plans to match Israel's military might and reliable Arab sources said the build-up involved the Libyan Jamahiriya financing a \$1 billion arms deal with the Soviet Union.

An official statement on Syria's determination to ensure "a strategic balance between us and the Zionist enemy" coincided with fresh efforts to draw Iraq into an anti-Egyptian alliance formed at last month's Arab summit in Tripoli. The Arab sources said secret agreements reached at the Tripoli summit included the Libyans financing Syrian arms purchases from the Soviet Union worth up to \$1 billion. Well-informed sources in Damascus said today Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein was likely to lead the Baghdad delegation to an anti-Egyptian summit expected to open in Algiers next Sunday or Monday.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait confer on fate of Sadat's peace bid
 KUWAIT, Jan. 24 (AP). — Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, paid a flying visit here today at the start of Arab-wide consultations to arrange collective efforts for a Middle East settlement.

Prince Saud opened a session of talks with the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli stalemate. Prince Saud, who returned to Riyadh later in the day, delivered a message from the Saudi King Khaled to the Emir, reportedly dealing with a proposal for mending Egyptian-Syrian relations to create an atmosphere propitious to a Middle East settlement. Officials here said Saudi Arabia is convinced that the Egyptian-Israeli peace dialogue has ended in failure and that King Khaled is displeased because the United States has so far refrained from putting pressure on Israel to accept the Egyptian peace initiative.

"The moment has come to put an end to the chaos in inter-Arab relations. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have from the start been convinced that Sadat's initiative would be futile. The two powers are determined to smooth over Arab bickering and act as one front," a Kuwaiti official said. Prince Saud's talks here came amid official and press reports about Saudi Arabia's discontent over the U.S. stance on the Middle East crisis. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, officials said, will try and arrange a full-dress Arab summit conference to reconcile Presidents Hafez Assad and Anwar Sadat. Mr. Assad had promised never to meet with Mr. Sadat in the context of Egypt's search for a settlement with Israel. But Saudi Arabia will try to convince President Assad to change this, they said. "Bringing inter-Arab differences to an end is the responsibility of all Arab powers. But Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are aware of their special responsibility in this connection," the Kuwaiti foreign minister added.

JORDAN TIMES

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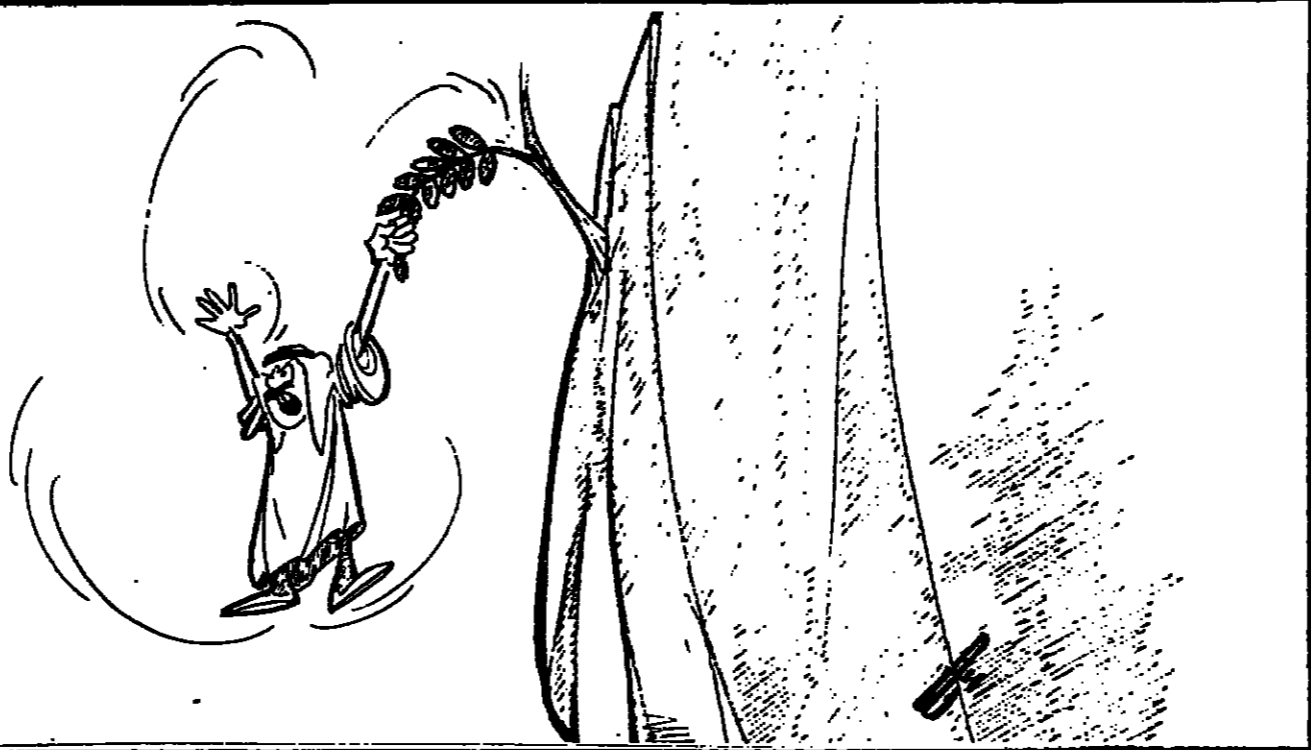
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Saudi, Jordanian education officials form joint committee during talks

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The third round of talks resumed at the Ministry of Education today between representatives of the ministry and members of the Saudi educational delegation.

During today's meeting the two sides agreed to form a joint committee whose main function is to oversee the implementation of the decisions taken by the two sides during their meetings which started two days ago.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Abdan, the head of the Saudi delegation, praised the level of education in Jordan.

He said, "The new educational plan which the Ministry of Education began implementing at the start of the current scholastic year is a very successful example to follow."

Mr. Abdan expressed his admiration of the Jordanian teachers, especially those working in Saudi Arabia. He added, "cultural and educational cooperation between Jordan and Saudi is very strong -- stronger than expressed in the bilateral educational agreement."

Crisis in Italy

The history of Italian politics since the end of World War II has taught observers to expect nothing short of a recurrent drama: the quick fall of governments after they had been formed with a measure of difficulty almost unequalled anywhere else in the world. There are too many inherent weaknesses in the Italian edifice for politics to be an easy game there. But, as if the all-too-usual problems of economic instability and political violence are not enough, Italy has a Communist problem.

Signor Giulio Andreotti, Italy's Premier-designate, is now faced with the task of forming a government to replace his own without the participation of the Communist Party, and he needs all the luck there is on the market. His previous government was able to survive because of the agreement with the Communists not to vote against him in parliament. The Communists have lately expressed themselves unwilling to play along. They are now demanding a "national coalition government" in which, for the first time, they will share seats.

When even Washington has publicly spoken against such an outcome, it is easy to see Signor Andreotti's dilemma. No West European government can afford to have Communists on its cabinet bench and none has yet dared do that. But the simple fact is that Signor Andreotti is having a difficult time forming a government without the Communists.

Signor Andreotti may yet be able to surmount his present difficulties. He may succeed in forming a coalition with other parties to extend the parliamentary power of his minority Christian Democrats, or the Communists might yet agree to go back to playing their tacit role of second fiddler. But one has to be blind to imagine that an Italian crisis will not erupt again in the measure of time. If West Europe is not to be eventually governed by the Communists -- in Italy, France, Portugal and Spain -- West European governments must be strengthened. The United States can do a lot more, one thinks, than sound its disapproval. It can try to provide these countries with a stronger economic base which, more than anything else, will be able to drain the unquestionable appeal Communists have among an electorate frightened by a future that seems heading towards disaster. Otherwise, the democratic way of life which permits all parties to stand for elections might become its own worst enemy.

New facility gives Arab Wings regional service capability

By Lee Tesdell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JT). — Arab Wings today opened a new \$1 million facility at Amman Airport. The building, completed ahead of schedule by 20 days, will serve as the maintenance centre for the Middle East's business jet charter airline. It has about 650 sq. metres of hangar area, 325 sq. metres of maintenance shop space and about 100 sq. metres of warehouse area. The building itself cost \$300,000, was put up by MEMCO, a Jordanian contractor, and "within 15 days" will be in full operation, the company's Chairman and President Ali Ghandour told the Jordan Times.

As I toured the new facility here today, ground crew were readying one of Arab Wings Learjets for Minister of Finance, Mr. Mohammad Dabbas to leave to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A second plane was leaving for Saudi Arabia with a leading Jordanian businessman, two aircraft were in the Gulf, one in Dubai and one in Bahrain and the others were in the home port here in Amman.

Of the seven plane fleet, two are Rockwell Sabreliner 75-A's and five are Gates Learjets, four 35-A's and one 35. The Sabreliner is a more plush craft. I noticed as Mr. Hassan Mattar, Vice President for maintenance and engineering, showed me about.

The Sabreliner, described by Mr. Mattar "as the Cadillac of business jets" can accommodate up to ten passengers as the configuration of the seating is variable but Arab Wings keeps the passenger load to eight, for maximum comfort. The Learjets can also be set up hold various numbers of passengers. Arab Wings has 100 personnel, many of whom "are ex-Alia". Said Mr. Mattar, "I was



An Arab Wings Learjet stands outside the new hangar at Amman airport while another undergoes maintenance under cover. (JT photos by Yusef Allan)

eight years with Alia". The chief pilot is now Mr. Ivor Galoway, who replaced Mr. Sam Bass who left in October 1977. The pilots at Arab Wings earn about \$2,300 a month.

Mr. Abdul Ghannai Joudeh, head of avionics at Arab Wings, is a graduate of Youngstown State University, Ohio in the U.S. For two years he ran his own electric repair shop in Youngstown and is a graduate of a jet electronics course in Tucson, Arizona.

Asked about typical maintenance problems with his craft, Mr. Mattar said that, at the moment, he was mostly dealing with routine checks, although one plane in the new hangar was having engines overhauled to correct some problems connected with hot starting.

When he first came to Arab Wings, Mr. Mattar said that he had to do some work on the Garrett engines, used in the Learjets.

New turbine wheels were put in each engine and all gearboxes were inspected as the planetary gears in some had to be replaced.

"Everything is now in order", he continued. Of the 27 maintenance per-

sonnel, 12 are licensed U.S. Federal Aviation Authority technicians and others are Jordanian airforce trained technicians.

In the airtight shop, Mr. Mattar explained that "we are doing heavy line maintenance" and "we can test the autopilot and do our own bench testing".

Radar maintenance, however, is not done at this Amman airport facility.

Chairman Ali Ghandour added that, "we are applying to do hot section maintenance for other operations" and continued saying that he saw no reason why in the future Arab Wings would not be doing this service for other companies.

The Learjet engines require a 750 hour maintenance routine and the Sabreliner, a 1,000 hour hot section inspection.

With a refueling stop in Athens, one of the Arab Wings Learjets can take a customer, or up to 8 passengers, to London from Amman in six hours flying time.

The 35-A, one of the two Le-

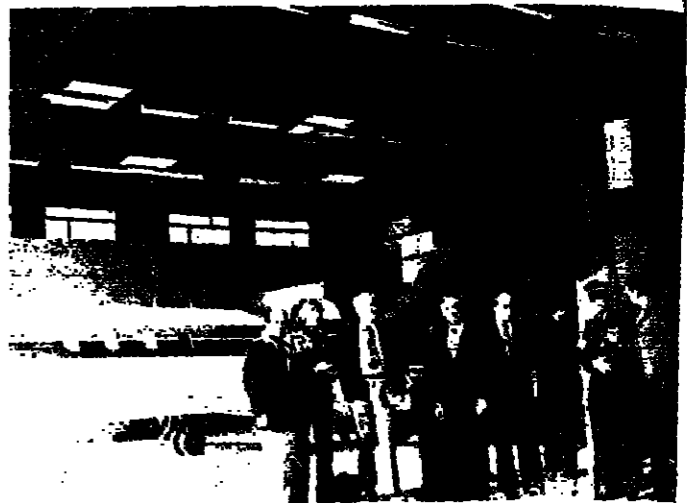
arjet models which Arab Wings uses, is served by two crew members -- the pilot and copilot, and is basically a self-service airplane for the passengers, explained Mr. Mattar.

The galley, with facilities for food storage and refreshment, is located toward the cockpit. The craft also has a compact restroom. Before take-off, the copilot makes a complete briefing to the passengers on available snacks and from then on refreshments are on a serve yourself basis.

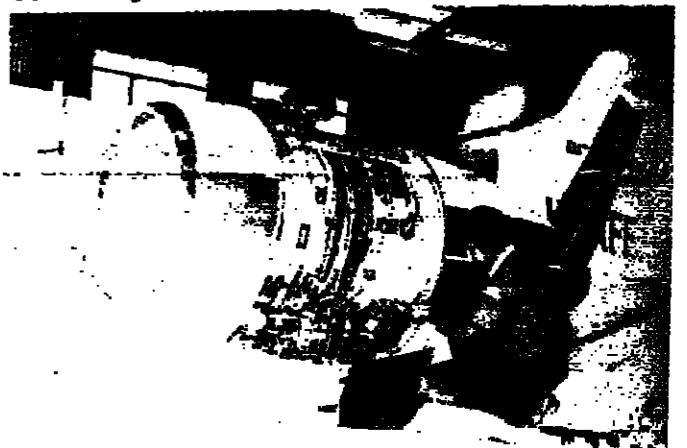
The Sabreliner, on the other hand, has much more room, a full airliner size restroom and more cockpit space as well.

"Customers prefer it" as well, said Mr. Mattar, although the rate is \$500 higher per hour than that of the Learjets.

With this new facility at Arab Wings, Jordan's executive airline seems to be taking a large step forward to meet the growing challenge and market of specialized air services in the Middle East.



Line mechanics work on the engine of a Learjet in Arab Wings new facility.



A group of airline officials and journalists visit the new hangar at Amman airport on Tuesday. Key officials are, far left Mr. H. Mattar, Vice-President Engineering and Maintenance; in the center, Chairman and President Mr. Ali Ghandour; fourth from left, Vice-President Finance and Administration, Anwar Rabea; from right, Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing Mr. B. Bitar, and second from right, Chief Pilot Captain Ivor Galoway.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL DUSTOUR Tuesday said the Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin yesterday dealt a premeditated blow to the remaining "chance" for resumption of the political or military talks between Egypt and Israel, when he declared in the Knesset his insistence on not withdrawing from all occupied Arab territories and keeping the Israeli settlements in Sinai.

"It appears that Mr. Begin was not happy about the door which President Anwar Sadat left open. He preferred to expedite closing it in an unscrupulous manner and without taking any consideration to the morality of speech," the newspaper says.

For example, Al Dustour continued, the Israeli prime minister was slandering President Sadat when he said that the Egyptian leader had known, before his visit to Jerusalem, that Israel would not pull back from all occupied Arab territories, and would not abandon the Sinai settlements -- as if Mr. Begin wanted to say why did Mr. Sadat come to Jerusalem when he understood the Israeli position in advance.

With this had taste the Israeli prime minister spoke yesterday. He answered the Egyptian initiative, which relieved Israel from a position of an internationally isolated outcast by such shocking remarks that could never have been pronounced by a man who by-passed the mentality of a gangster to that of a responsible statesman.

At any rate, the newspaper goes on, what Begin has said, emphasises once more, that "President Sadat's spark has not kindled the minds of the Israeli leaders who are still maintaining their swaggering manners of preferring the usurped land to the just peace in the area. All this should be fully understood by the world in general and Washington in particular. It also makes imperative that a comprehensive re-evaluation of the Arab situation be made and an urgent re-building of a unified Arab stand that gives the Arabs freedom of action in the light of the present realities they are encountering, Al Dustour says.

On the same theme, AL RAI says that it may be observed that Israel concentrates only on the occupied Sinai, clearly indicating its continuous attempts to get Egypt out of the Arab-Israeli conflict and impose on it the terms of the victor over the vanquished.

The newspaper adds that Israel's aggressive intentions are self-evident. President Sadat's initiative has gone in vain, having had its positive contents diluted by Israel, and the much-hoped-for "SOS", Al Rai asks, "do the Arabs hope that pressure coming from the inhabitants of other planets would persuade Israel to accept peace with the Arabs?"

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مكتبة الامم

Jordanian financial delegation visits Riyadh

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (R). — Jordan's Minister of Finance Dr. Mohammad Dabbas arrived in Riyadh today on a visit to Saudi Arabia lasting several days, Riyadh radio reported.

Dr. Dabbas and his delegation which includes Jordan's Central Bank Governor, Dr. Mohammad Said Nabulsi and other senior officials are expected to hold financial and economic talks with Saudi Arabia's Minister of Finance and Economy, Sheikh Mohammad Abul Khail, the radio added.

The Jordanian minister was quoted as saying on arrival that his talks would cover questions of common interest, bilateral relations and cooperation in the economic field.

National News Roundup

Abu Odeh meets delegation from Argentina

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh received in his office today the members of the Arab-Argentinian Cultural Institute delegation, who are currently visiting Jordan. The two sides exchanged views on the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in the fields of culture, history, and art. The delegation arrived here two days ago on a several-days visit to Jordan in the course of his tour of a number of Arab states including Syria and Saudi Arabia, at the invitation of the Arab League.

Tourism chief meets Buenos Aires professors

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The Director General of Tourism Michael Hamareh discussed during a meeting in his office today with a number of Buenos Aires University professors means of strengthening bilateral tourist relations. They also discussed the possibility of sending a number of Jordanians on fellowships to study tourist sciences at a number of Argentinian universities.

Talhouni meets Pakistani Ambassador

AMMAN, Jan. 20 (JNA). — Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni today received the Pakistani ambassador in Amman.

Industry and Commerce Minister talks cooperation with Italian delegation

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Najmeddine Dajani today discussed with an Italian economic delegation headed by the Italian ambassador here, means of promoting economic cooperation, particularly financing Jordanian development projects or participating in joint ventures between Jordan and the group of Italian industries represented by the delegation. The talks are complementary to those carried out by the Italian team with Jordanian officials some two months ago.

Transport Ministry agrees with Greece

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The Ministry of Transport announced today its approval of a request submitted by the Greek government for the signing of a land transport agreement between the two countries.

Electricity expansion in Irbid area

IRBID, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The electricity company for the Irbid governorate has finalised a new plan under which 118 villages will be provided with electricity. This project will cost JD 5 million.

Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF CO.	Number of shares	Volume traded in JD.	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling bid
Dr. Al-Hawari for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	405	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	—	—
Jordan Trading Co.	JD 5,000	1,313	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,100	—	—
Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5,000	197	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	—	—
Arab Aluminium Industries Co.	JD 1,000	340	9,900	9,850	9,850	9,850	9,800	—
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10,000	1,484	15,000	15,150	15,150	15,150	15,150	—
Jordan Ceramics Co.	JD 1,000	407	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	—
Paper and Cardboard Factories	JD 1,000	44	1,100	1,050	1,050	1,050	—	—
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	5,770	6,900	6,850	6,800	6,800	—	—

* 75 per cent of the shares paid.

Total volume traded, Tuesday, Jan. 24: JD 9,000.

Champion snake charmer crowned

HYDERABAD, Pakistan, (R). — To the wailing of flutes and chanting of spells, two old men battled for four days in a crowded stadium here for the right to be crowned Pakistan's champion snake charmer.

The title and a prize of 50,000 rupees (£2,600) put up by a snake research institute eventually went to Photo Khan, one of the legendary hermits of the forests and deserts known as Jogies.

The Nawab of Tajpur ceded the challenge when Photo Khan, who says he is over 100 years old, draped a highly poisonous snake around his neck.

The Nawab squirmed with humiliation when he tried to show that his cobra was poisonous by making it bite a number of rabbits.

When none of the rabbits died Photo Khan stepped in to claim he had put a spell on the cobra and demand that the trick be repeated without his spell. The next rabbit to be bitten died within seconds.

Econoscope

By Jawad Ahmad

Central Bank aims to make ends meet

Three weeks ago the Amman Financial Market began operations. The volume of traded securities and shares is indeed very small. Actually, securities have not been subjected to any wheeling-dealing, and the market's activity has been strictly confined to shares. To be even more specific, shares of only ten firms have enjoyed any business in the market so far. On average the volume of sales barely exceeds J.D. 4,000 per day.

Although the market is too young to be evaluated, its momentum is not heart-warming. In acknowledgement of this fact, the Central Bank found itself in a position where it had to give the market a fillip. The boost, as the bank envisages it, lies in the invitation of prospective participants from neighbouring Arab countries to enter the market.

The way the bank sees this done is by allowing non-resident Arabs to buy, sell and own Jordanian equity and debt instruments without prior permission. Moreover, they are also entitled to the same rights and privileges as Jordanian buyers and sellers.

Not only that, the bank has coupled the above cited regulations with further foreign exchange control removals. Jordanian residents are allowed to maintain foreign exchange deposits with local commercial banks.

The word "resident" refers to Jordanians living in Jordan or working abroad. This smart definition helps enhance foreign exchange receipts on two accounts:

1. Jordanians working abroad will have now a new alternate facility to repatriate additional savings back home. The accounts to be nourished by expatriates are opened either in their names or in the name of some of

their relatives living in Jordan.

2. Jordanians who keep foreign exchange deposits abroad may now be tempted to repatriate some of them to Jordan.

Now, the question which poses itself is the following: Does this foreign exchange liberalisation help the Amman Financial Market? Obviously it may by channelling some of these foreign exchange investments into the market. How to insure that link is not clear though in the regulations. This may come at a later stage.

The second question which needs to be answered is: What effects will this new exchange liberalisation have on the balance of payments and the money supply? As for the balance of payments, the marginal effect could range from zero to any unspecified positive value. If the deposits are nourished by assets sent in the form of remittances the effect would be zero. However, if they are sent in addition to remittances the effect would be positive.

As for their effect on the money supply it depends on the treatment accorded to these deposits. If banks are allowed to loan some of them, then they will be a new source of credit expansion. If they are not, the effect on the money supply will depend on how many of them will be converted into Jordan dinars.

At a time when the financial market needs help, the credit market is tight, the earnings of Jordanians abroad need tapping and industrial investments need financing. At this time these new measures by the Central Bank deserve commendation. Let us hope that they fulfill their multi-purposed objective.

Chinese base strategy on premise that Soviet greed for power makes world war inevitable

PEKING (AFP). — For the Chinese the visit of French Prime Minister Raymond Barre has been above all a new opportunity to denounce the threat of "Soviet imperialism" to the world.

When Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, the sprightly 70-year-old who has become China's number two man, met Mr. Barre for two hours of talks on international affairs, he explained to his French visitor the world situation as seen from Peking and tried to convince him of the folly of the West's policy of détente with the Soviet Union.

A source present at the meeting said Teng Hsiao-ping revealed a global strategy based on the premise that "Soviet greed for power makes a new world war inevitable." China's whole strategy hinges on this.

The Chinese feel that the United States, the other super-power capable of counteracting "sinister Soviet plans", has abdicated its responsibility by retreating into a defensive position and encouraging the West in a vain policy of appeasement. China therefore proposes a different strategy which may not avoid war but could delay it and ensure victory.

Teng Hsiao-ping explained this strategy to Mr. Barre as follows:

1) Everyone must prepare for war. These preparations may make the Soviet Union think twice. This suggestion followed Vice-Premier Teng's recent criticism to visiting United States congressmen of the U.S. military budget seen as too low compared to the Soviet Union's.

2) All Soviet plots around the world must be foiled to "destabilise its social-imperialist policy." Here Teng Hsiao-ping congratulated France for intervening in Zaïre and disrupting Soviet projects in Africa.

3) The West must not be tempted by appeasement policies, such as disarmament talks or developing trade links with the Soviet Union. Such policies are a swindle as the United States found out a few years ago when it sold the Russians warships at a profit to other countries. Meanwhile any loans the West grants the Soviet Union merely aid its arms race.

Teng Hsiao-ping gave his listeners the impression that China's current strategy was designed as a stop-gap while it carried out its goal of modernisation in industry, agriculture, science and defence. The mainstay of the new leader's policy.

But when China is as strong as the Soviet Union it may be a different story.

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Poor countries could save \$600m. if debt standards were revised, says UNCTAD's Corea

GENEVA, Jan. 24 (R). — The world's poorest countries could save a total of over \$600 million a year in loan repayments if their foreign debts were revised to current standards, a senior United Nations official said here yesterday.

Mr. Gamani Corea, Sri Lankan Secretary-General of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said non oil-producing developing countries spent on average a quarter of export earnings to pay back earlier loans from the richer states.

He said the loan terms, fixed some 10 to 15 years ago, were "significantly harder" than those now considered

appropriate for the poorer. He told an UNCTAD-sponsored meeting of government officials that if the rich countries wrote off the outstanding debts of the world's 29 poorest countries and increased the amount of grants in their aid to the 16 most needy states it would save \$600 million in debt repayments.

This conference is intended

to make some headway in preparing for a major UNCTAD meeting in March.

At present the total debts of the developing countries to commercial banks and governments are between \$225 billion and \$250 billion. There is great disagreement, however, between rich and poor countries as to how the debt issue should be resolved.

Iran drops plans for nuclear power plants near quake zone

TEHRAN, Jan. 24 (R). — Plans for building nuclear power plants in Bandar Abbas on the Gulf have been dropped in favour of gas power stations because of seismic conditions, the newspaper Ayandegan re-

ported. Quoting the governor of Hormozgan Province, it said the area was quake-prone, and nuclear stations planned for Bandar Abbas would be sited elsewhere in the country.

Heavy crude oil price meeting set for Feb. 1

VIENNA, Jan. 24 (R). — Oil ministers from five major oil-producing nations will meet in Geneva next week to discuss price levels for varying types of heavy crude, OPEC officials said yesterday.

The countries are Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela. They are the biggest producers of heavy crude in the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The meeting will have no range of \$12.70 per barrel. Officials said the Geneva meeting on Feb. 1 was concerned only with differentials in prices for effect on basic OPEC petroleum prices, now frozen at an average of \$12.70 per barrel.

OPEC, which has been wrestling with disputed differentials for years, agreed last July that the problem should be reviewed in an inter-ministerial sub-committee. This will be the committee's first meeting.

Some OPEC producers have sought lower differentials for heavy crude. Demand for this type of oil has dropped in recent years.

A British soldier wears the latest line in nuclear-biological-chemical (NBC) warfare suits which are now going into service with the British armed forces. The light weight suit, which packs into small plastic packets weighing less than two pounds, gives a soldier protection against all known forms of chemical or germ agents and the overall is virtually self-incontaminating because liquids rapidly evaporate from its surface. The goggles black out within a minute fraction of a second of a flash occurring and clear again immediately afterwards. (AP wirephoto)

WHO prepares programme to ensure essential drug supply to poor countries

GENEVA, Jan. 24 (R). — The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced yesterday it is preparing an action programme to make sure poorer countries get essential drugs. The programme includes help in selection and proper use of essential drugs and measures to enable states to produce and control the quality of the drugs themselves wherever feasible, the WHO said.

The U.N. organisation's Executive Board asked Director-General Halldan Mahler at its current session in Geneva to prepare the action programme. WHO experts have already prepared a list of 210 drugs which it says could be considered essential for basic health needs among the 3,000 used in West European countries. Industrialised states produce most of the drugs now sold on the market.

"The use of medicinal plants and other drugs of natural origin in health care is also under close consideration in order to make the fullest use of local sources," WHO added.

Pay strike brings Bombay to standstill

NEW DELHI, Jan. 24 (R). — Bombay, India's second largest city, was at a virtual standstill today when seven million workers in the western state of Maharashtra went on a 24-hour strike.

The strike was called by national trade unions in support of a 42-day strike by state and local government employees demanding more pay.

Journalists and other newspaper workers across the country also called a 24-hour strike in protest at the alleged refusal by proprietors to recognise wage boards set up to fix new salaries for workers in the industry.

The national radio reported life in Bombay had been badly disrupted.

Banks, shops, and restaurants closed and buses and taxis disappeared from the streets. Drivers of 8,000 taxis in Bombay alone gave full support to the strike.

Central government offices, such as the Reserve Bank, as well as private firms, reported for duty. Some 750,000 lower-ranking employees of the state government, municipal councils, including school teachers, have been on strike since Dec. 14.

City busmen demonstrated noisily near their main depots just after midnight but workers in essential services such as power, hospitals and fire brigades, were excluded from the strike.

The country's national news agency, Samachar, shut down for 24 hours from 2:30 GMT.

The government workers' main demand is for payment of an indexed living cost wage supplement of about 11 per cent.

Weekend intervention by two central government ministers failed to reach a settlement.

The major strike today, backed by all except one of the country's major trade unions, was called to demonstrate solidarity with government workers.

Tunisia's General Worker's Union decides to call national strike

TUNIS, Jan. 24 (R). — Tunisia's government-controlled General Workers Union (UGTT) yesterday decided to call a national strike following what it described as provocation, violence and organised terrorism against trade unionism.

The strike would be the first national stoppage in Tunisia since independence from France in 1956. It comes amid growing differences between the

Central Trade Union Organisation and the government of President Habib Bourguiba.

Earlier this month Tunisia's trade union boss, UGTT Secretary-General Habib Achour, resigned from the Politbureau and Central Committee of the country's ruling Political Party.

A date for the strike will be decided at a later date by the UGTT Executive Bureau.

Kuwaiti contract for office complex goes to Japanese firm

KUWAIT, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Japan's Fujita Corporation won a \$39-million contract today for the construction of a three-block government office complex here, the government announced.

The complex, designed by Finland's Rail and Reima Pielolo Company, is to be completed by 1981, the announcement added.

Greece to give Cyprus \$30 m.

ATHENS, Greece Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Greece has agreed to give Cyprus \$30 million in economic aid for 1978, bringing the total since the 1974 Turkish invasion of the island republic to \$120 million, the government announced today.

The announcement was made after a meeting between the Cypriot finance minister and Greek Premier Constantine Karamanlis.

Israel to renew radio, T.V. equipment with credits from Germany

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (R). — The state-owned Israeli Broadcasting Authority (IBA) is to renew its equipment with credits from West Germany, the IBA director said here today.

Mr. Yitzhak Livni told the governing board of the Israeli radio and television services that Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich had agreed in principle to use of a credit of between five and six million dollars offered during his recent visit to Germany.

Mr. Livni said radio and television engineers would shortly be going to Germany to inspect equipment destined to replace that installed in the 1960's and now outdated and approaching the end of its useful life.

It's a tough life on a North Sea oil rig

This time of year there are few more inhospitable spots in the world than the North Sea with its howling, often icy gales and mountainous waves. That is why working on an oil rig in this area is one of the toughest jobs in the world today. Guy Arnold recently visited one of the rigs and saw the conditions under which 9,000 men are working today.

By Guy Arnold

ABERDEEN, Scotland — In all the debates about Britain's oil wealth and the employment boosts that Scotland in general and Aberdeen as oil capital in particular are enjoying, it is all too easy to forget the men actually working in the North Sea in weather conditions that for most of the time are grim by any standards.

About 9,000 men are working offshore, supported by a workforce of 90,000 onshore in oil related activities, half of these in Scotland. In 1975 it was estimated that an average North Sea platform required a crew of approximately 140. Or rather two crews of 70 men each, half onshore and half on the rig at any time. These required a further immediate back-up of another 120 men onshore and of such a total — 260 men — perhaps 60 would be foreign nationals. But the needs have changed with experience on the job and now, for example, the Forties platforms in full production require about 72 men to run them as well as "short-term stayers" who come aboard to carry out specific maintenance and other jobs and then leave. Thus, up to 96 beds a platform are in constant use.

The result is that numbers required have been upgraded: The basic crew may now come to 125 — apart from short term maintenance men — while a second crew of 125 will be on leave ashore.

The normal practice is for the men to work a two week shift on and then have two weeks leave. In addition to the normal crews extra men are on stand-by at a ratio of point four of a man to each post to cover sickness, leave and training.

A great deal has been made of the high pay received by the men on the platforms, though some of this is hearsay and in any case exact figures are hard to come by since men work to contracts for

companies which in turn contract to the oil companies so that the variations are considerable.

Only a small proportion of the men on any one rig are likely to be employees of the oil companies themselves.

The work is exacting: It is also dangerous and many things can go wrong. Blowouts are the spectacular oil accidents that everyone has heard of but many other things can happen: Cranes have been pulled off platforms into the sea by their loads in bad weather, men have been blown over-

board; there are fire risks and the work generally is dirty and exhausting.

On top of this comes the weather: Gale force winds, 60 foot waves, icing on the catwalks and platforms.

It has been found that the men best suited to work on the rigs are aged between 20 and 40. If they are younger or older they tend to stand one shift only under the hard conditions and then quit. Two weeks on means two weeks out in an emergency as well.

The work is rough and there is no security; in the early days there was no compensation for injury and in one case, for example, a man lost his bonus for claiming compensation for losing a finger.

Many men have tried work

on the rigs and then despite the high pay given up after one stint. No alcohol or women are allowed. There is a good deal of trouble especially among the skilled men because of penalising taxation; what they would like are tax free bonuses.

As yet trade unions have made little headway in the North Sea. They have failed to unionise the rigs; Partly this is because the working populations are constantly changing and partly because of the nature of the work (hard, dangerous and dirty) which attracts tough individuals who take on jobs on a casual basis and are uninterested — to put it mildly — at being unionised anyway.

B.P. and Shell tolerate union membership; most of the other companies are actively hostile to it.

Unions would all like to see an increase in union activity; they have often found, however, that their efforts are opposed by both management and other workers. There is an inter-union North Sea Oil Action Committee.

A typical dispute on a rig took place in January, 1976 when 35 men on the Brent B platform were taken off following a dispute when they had been asked to work in icing conditions. The absence of collective bargaining means that an individual's contract of employment is of great importance to him and once he has it he is likely to steer clear of union activity that may be treated as a breach of contract and so lose him his job.

In September of 1977 200 men were airlifted off Dullin A platform after they had do-

woned tools in a dispute when the management, McDermotts Oceanics Drilling Contractors, refused to recognise a workers' committee.

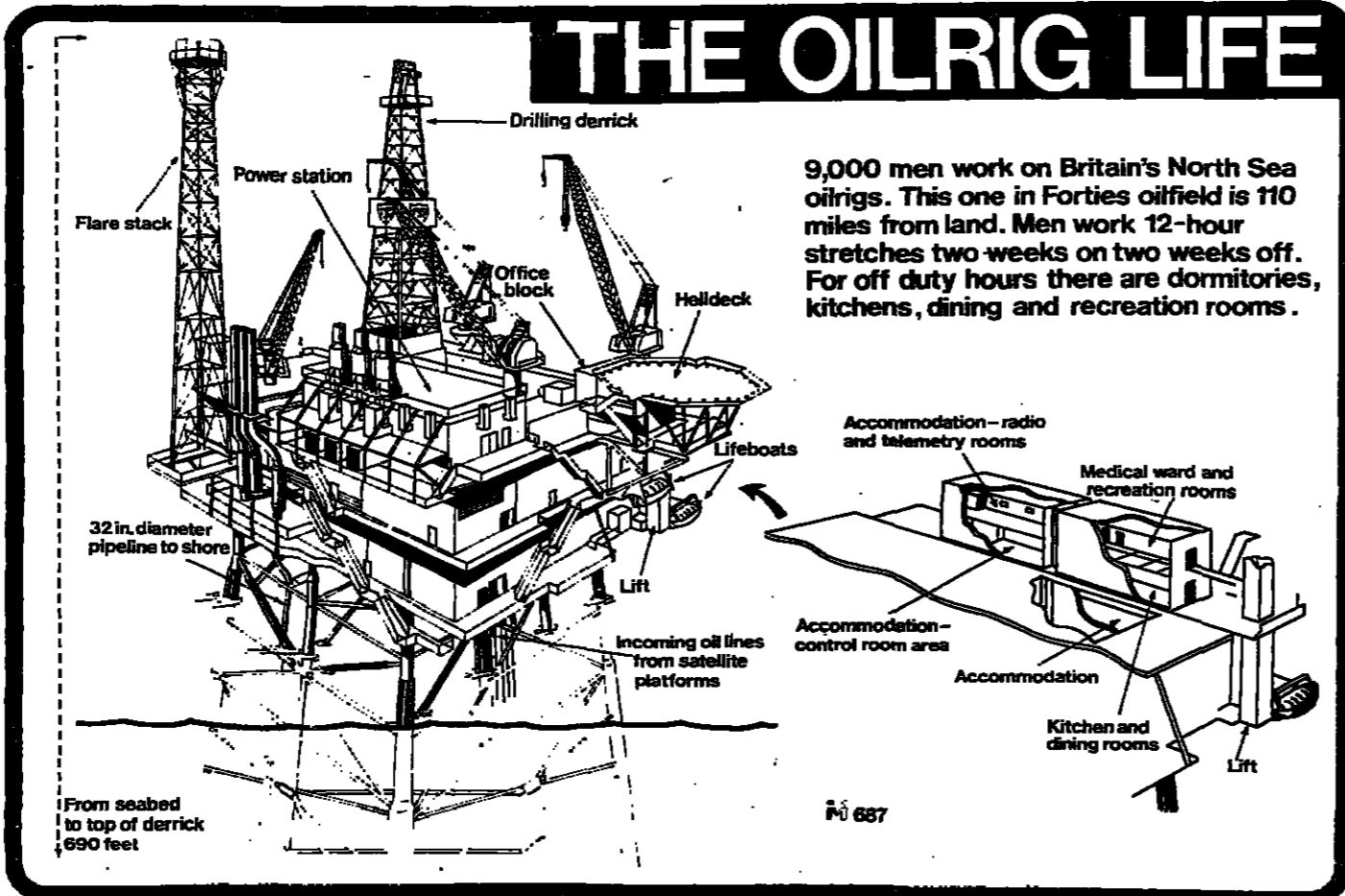
Yet the attitude of some of the men is hardly in sympathy with such committees or organisations. As one man said: "After one trip everyone knows what the conditions are. If they don't like it they don't have to stay." That, clearly, is the attitude of the management as well.

No doubt in time the rigs and platforms in the North Sea will be unionised and conditions will become better. Meanwhile, neither government nor companies will allow anything to stop the oil coming ashore for already its impact upon the economy has become so crucial that delays are considered to be unthinkable.

At the same time tough individuals do incredibly hard work and surely earn every penny they get: Two weeks at twelve hours a day on a North Sea platform in winter conditions is in no sense a soft job.

Perhaps the best commentary on conditions in the North Sea is the fact that a team of doctors in Scotland is now studying oil related injuries that they have to cope with when casualties from the rigs are flown off by helicopter and brought into Aberdeen's hospitals.

THE OILRIG LIFE



9,000 men work on Britain's North Sea oil rigs. This one in Forties oilfield is 110 miles from land. Men work 12-hour stretches two weeks on two weeks off. For off duty hours there are dormitories, kitchens, dining and recreation rooms.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian fils	Buying/Selling
U.S. dollar	313.00/315.00
U.K. sterling	610.00/614.00
Swiss franc	158.50/159.40
French franc	66.50/67.00
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.10/36.30
Japanese yen (for every 100)	130.10/130.90
Dutch guilder	139.20/140.00
Belgian franc (for every 100)	96.00/96.80
Swedish crown	67.50/67.90

Leftists want 3 freed in return for captive Baron Empain's life

PARIS, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — A Maoist splinter group called the Armed Nucleus for Popular Autonomy (NAPAP) today claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of millionaire Belgian industrialist Baron Edouard-Jean Empain. An anonymous caller telephoned the Paris office of Radio Luxembourg (RTL) and said the 40-year old baron would be killed if leftist guerrillas now in French prisons were not released by midday tomorrow.

Later, a phone call to a newspaper in eastern France was more specific. The caller, who spoke French without accent, said Baron Empain would be killed by midday tomorrow unless three leftist guerrillas were released from French and West German prisons.

One of these, Christian Harbulot, is imprisoned in France after arrest last Dec. 4, charged

with killing Jean-Antoine Tramiot, a former guard at the Renault automobile plant in suburban Boulogne-Billancourt. Tramiot had acknowledged killing a young leftist demonstrator at the plant.

The other two prisoners are Irmgard Moeller and Rolf Pohle, both convicted members of the Baader-Meinhof group and currently in prison in West Germany. Frau Moeller was the

only member of the group to survive what Bonn authorities said was a collective suicide bid in Stuttgart's Stammheim prison last October.

It was not known how seriously police in France were taking the telephone threats. Police sources recalled that several previous attacks claimed by NAPAP had in fact turned out to be the work of other extremist groups.

The first caller told RTL: "We demand the release of our comrades in prison before midday on Wednesday. Otherwise we will kill the baron. Other bosses will follow."

Baron Empain was abducted outside his home in Paris' exclusive Avenue Foch yesterday morning.

Baron Empain, a married man with three children, is Chairman of the Schneider group of companies, which employs 245,000 people and had a turnover last year of more than 22.1 billion francs (about \$5 billion).

A leading figure in Parisian high society, he has business interests which include steel, heavy engineering, the nuclear power industry and banking. As a top member of the French Employers Organisation, he has been a frequent target of criticism by leftwing groups in France.



Ethiopian Assistant Foreign Minister Maj. Dawit Wolde George (left) speaks to reporters during a press conference in Rome on Monday in which he accused Western and some Arab governments of "manipulating" Somali and other guerrilla groups inside Ethiopia to "dismember the country" in retaliation for its socialist policy. (AP wirephoto)

Bhutto refuses to testify in defence against murder charge

LAHORE, Pakistan, Jan. 24 (R). — Former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto refused to testify in his defence today when questioned about events leading up to the ambush of a political rival three years ago.

Mr. Bhutto, who has pleaded not guilty to murder in connection with the ambush, was called to the witness stand under a procedure which obliges an accused to answer but without taking an oath.

He said he would answer questions dealing only with the reasons for the trial, why a case was "fabricated" against him, and his lack of confidence in obtaining a fair judgement.

Later, apart from a few asides, the ex-premier, himself

a Western-educated lawyer, repeated to all questions:

"I have nothing to say in my defence for the reasons given above."

The ambush was alleged to have been carried out against Mr. Ahmed Raza Kasuri by officers of the since-disbanded Federal Security Force.

Four other people are also charged as a result of the incident, in which Mr. Kasuri's father, Nawab Mohammad Ahmed was killed.

Mr. Bhutto, 50, had already

announced that he was boycotting the trial and has sacked his counsel. He has made several unsuccessful attempts to have the court declared unconstitutional and biased.

The long series of question put to him today by the full five-man bench of the High Court included inquiries about his relations with Mr. Kasuri. His former ally had been especially critical of Mr. Bhutto over the secession of Pakistan's eastern wing, now Bangladesh.

Poll shows 71% of Israelis against total withdrawal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (R). — More than 70 per cent of Israelis covered by a public opinion poll published on Monday opposed complete withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders even for the sake of a comprehensive peace as laid down by President Anwar Sadat.

The poll was taken for the government by the Hebrew University shortly before the breakup last Wednesday of the political talks between Israel and Egypt.

The poll indicated that 71 per cent of Israel's adult Jewish population opposed a full withdrawal, 20 per cent thought such a complete pullback should be considered and nine per cent expressed readiness for a return of all occupied territories.

The poll also indicated that 72 per cent of the Israelis opposed a transfer of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip to Egyptian sovereignty.

But 60 per cent were against the expansion of Jewish settlement in occupied Arab territories. The others questioned thought such activities should continue in Gaza and other parts of occupied areas even while negotiations with Egypt were in progress.

Asked what concessions Israel should make in return for peace, five per cent of those surveyed favoured a complete withdrawal from the occupied West Bank, 28 per cent favoured "substantial withdrawals" from that area, 4 per cent would accept minor withdrawals and the remainder opposed any withdrawal whatever.

Sixty-eight per cent thought Prime Minister Menachem Begin was doing a good job and "acting properly" in talks with the Egyptians at the time the survey was made.

Twenty-one per cent said he was doing fairly well, nine per cent "not so well," and two per cent rejected his handling of the negotiations.

Turkey reportedly will withdraw more troops from Cyprus

NICOSIA, Jan. 24 (R). — As a goodwill gesture, Turkey will this week further cut its 26,000-man troop level in Cyprus, the independent Northern Cyprus News Agency (NCNA) reported today.

The agency, quoting military sources, said the reduction would be made before the new Turkish government of Mr. Bulent Ecevit put forward proposals for an overall settlement of the Cypriot dispute. Turkey has controlled about one-third of the Mediterranean island, mainly its northern sector, since a previous government headed by Mr. Ecevit sent Turkish forces to invade the island after the 1974 coup against the then President, the late Archbishop Makarios.

At that time, Greece withdrew from NATO's military wing, but after recent talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Greek Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis said his country would consider returning to the alliance if NATO contributed to a settlement of the Cypriot problem.

Turkey withdrew 700 troops from the island before Christmas last year, leaving an estimated 26,000 men in the northwestern sector. It is not known how many might return home in any further withdrawal.

Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash said on his return from Ankara proposals to be presented for settlement talks would reflect the wishes of the island's Turkish-Cypriot community.

The proposals would be ready in three to four weeks and be considered by the Turkish-Cypriot legislature formed to govern the self-proclaimed Turkish federated state in the occupied northern sector.

Meanwhile, Greek Premier Karamanlis told Turkish Premier Ecevit yesterday that he

is prepared to meet him this spring to help iron out problems in Greek-Turkish relations.

Mr. Karamanlis was replying to a message from Mr. Ecevit that he was ready for a meeting at the first opportunity.

Greece and Turkey have disputes over the Aegean Sea in addition to the Cypriot problem.

Gunman holds 3 hostages in Canada

OAK LAKE, Manitoba, Jan. 24 (R). — A gunman held three hostages in a doctor's house here after a motel gunbattle in which a policeman was shot dead and two others wounded.

The man told reporters by telephone last night he wanted \$100,000 and a plane to take himself, his wife — who was also wounded in the motel shooting — and at least one of the hostages to a neutral country.

The hostages were believed to include the doctor and his wife.

The gunman, who identified himself only as Cliff, aged 43, said he had jumped bail in British Columbia after being charged with cashing bogus cheques. He told reporters he shot at the three police officers who went to his motel room yesterday morning, apparently to check on a reported stolen car.

Police declined all comment on the case except to report the casualties. Eyewitnesses said a dozen police cars had blocked the only road out of town.

World News Briefs

Cambodia claims victories over Viets

BANGKOK, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Cambodia accused Vietnam today of continuing attacks into its territory and claimed more victories over Vietnamese forces. A Radio Phnom Penh broadcast said the Vietnamese attacks took place Jan. 19, 20 and 21 north of the so-called Parrot's Beak and that the Vietnamese penetrated up to 2 km. into Cambodia. "The enemy infantrymen and tanks fled in disorder as a result of our attacks," the broadcast said describing the Jan. 19 fighting. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese official media has said some of Hanoi's top leaders have visited frontier areas in the central highlands in recent days, to the west of Ho Chi Minh City and in the Mekong River Delta.

3 questioned on U.K. newsman's murder

CAIRO, Jan. 24 (R). — Two men and a girl who were held for questioning about the murder of British correspondent David Holden last month have been set free but warned not to leave Egypt, police sources said last night. Mr. Holden, chief foreign correspondent of the London Sunday Times, was found shot dead in the desert near Cairo Airport on Dec. 7 after flying in from Amman. The police sources said the three people detained, all holders of Jordanian passports, were released three weeks ago but were asked to stay on in Egypt pending further investigations into the murder. They were held for interrogation after Mr. Holden's suitcase and other personal property were found inside their car. But the police said they discovered later that the trio had reported the theft of the car the day before Mr. Holden's body was found. The Sunday Times reported earlier this month that Egyptian investigators believe that the 53-year-old correspondent had been killed by an unknown intelligence organisation.

Soviet cosmonaut resupply spacecraft

MOSCOW, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Cosmonauts aboard the orbiting Salyut-Six space station have started bringing aboard supplies which were ferried to them by an unmanned transport craft, Tass reported today. The Soviet news agency said Cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Georgi Grechko also began preparatory operations for refuelling the space station from the Progress-1 transport capsule. "According to telemetric information, the on-board systems of the space complex are functioning normally," Tass said, adding that "the cosmonauts feel well."

U.S. to pass anti-terrorism law

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (R). — The Carter administration yesterday expressed support for a plan to publish a list of countries aiding international terrorism, but warned against mandatory sanctions. The government was working on a bill that would cut off air services between the United States and countries abetting terrorism, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance told a Senate committee, adding that sanctions should be considered only on an individual basis. Other foreign policy considerations should be weighed before closing down air traffic, he said. The United States has listed Libya, Iraq, South Yemen and Somalia as countries that had "aided terrorism."

Carter reportedly will sack CIA head

DETROIT, Michigan Jan. 24 (Agencies). — The White House staff is trying to ease Admiral Stansfield Turner out of his job as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Detroit News reported yesterday. The News, quoting unidentified sources, said that President Carter's National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, is leading the effort to remove Admiral Turner and that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is tacitly supporting the effort. Asked about the report, White House Press Secretary Jody Powell vehemently denied that Admiral Turner was being ousted. "There's no truth in that," he said.

Salisbury talks falter as black negotiators take opposed views

SALISBURY, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith conferred with his cabinet today after majority rule settlement talks with black politicians faltered over protective safeguards for whites in a proposed new black-dominated parliament.

The cabinet meeting is held routinely each Tuesday. Government sources said Mr. Smith would probably brief his ministers on how the seven-week-old settlement talks had bogged down.

The key point in the talks, scheduled to resume later today, is how long whites should be allowed to hold reserved

seats in the proposed legislature under an envisaged majority rule constitution.

Agreement has been reached between Prime Minister Smith and two of the black delegations that the whites should keep the seats for ten years or the life of two sessions of parliaments, sources close to the talks said.

But the third black delegation led by the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole is insisting on no more than five years.

The parties have agreed that whites will hold 28 of 100 seats in the proposed new parliament.

Mr. Smith has agreed in principle to one-man, one-vote

elections foreshadowing black rule, but only with guarantees for the future of the 268,000 whites.

The black leaders have broadly agreed to include minority safeguards in a new constitution.

Details of underwriting the guarantees are crucial in the discussions, according to the sources.

A spokesman for tribal Chief Jeremiah Chirau, President of the Zimbabwe United Peoples' Organisation, accused the Rev. Sithole of stalling progress at the settlement talks.

Mr. Gibson Magaramombe, ZUPU Publicity Secretary, asserted black leaders had joined the talks on the understanding no one delegation could have the power of veto.

He added: "If the Sithole delegation continues to delay settlement of these grave issues then the other three delegations ... should go ahead with the settlement talks as they are in the majority."

AWACS urged for Europe

BRUSSELS, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Gen. William John Evans, allied air force commander in Central Europe, made a plea today for installation of an air-borne warning and control system to watch for any invading Soviet planes and direct the battle against them. Without it, he said, allied forces would be hard pressed to defend Western Europe. The system, called AWACS, would be hard pressed to defend Western Europe. The system, called AWACS, would be hard pressed to defend Western Europe.

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How far will Ecevit succeed in solving Turkey's 3 problems?

Turkey's new government under Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, is committed to three main objectives: to end political violence; restore the nation's economy; and to settle the Cypriot problem. On Cyprus it is thought there is now a difference in the Turkish approach to the issue. Mr. Ecevit may now be prepared to make territorial concessions to the Greeks.

By William Forrest

LONDON — Who would want to be prime minister of a country on the brink of bankruptcy, with rampant inflation and record unemployment, and rent with political strife?

The country is Turkey, and the man who has just taken up the daunting job of P.M. is Bulent Ecevit, poet and politician.

Just how daunting is the job can be easily shown with the aid of a few figures.

Turkey's current account deficit last year was a record \$3700 million. The Central Bank owes \$1900 million to foreign private banks in short-term loans, which it is unable to repay.

Inflation is running at around 35 per cent, and despite the "export" of a million workers to Western Europe, unemployment has topped 20 per cent.

In December alone, more than 50 political murders were committed by right and left extremists.

Mr. Ecevit is a man of the left but, no extremist: he is

usually described as a Social Democrat.

His Republican People's Party is the biggest in Turkey, but in the last elections six months ago it just failed to win an absolute majority, and the former Premier, Suleyman Demirel, was able to carry on at the head of a rightwing coalition, the so-called National Front.

The front was a flop. In local elections a month ago Mr. Ecevit's party made handsome gains, and eleven M.P.s of Mr. Demirel's party, sniffing the political wind, deserted their leader and offered to support Mr. Ecevit.

With their help the National Front was outvoted in parliament and Turkey began the new year with a new government led by Mr. Ecevit and committed to three main objectives.

1. To end political violence

According to Amnesty International, most of the political murders are the work of student commandos known as the

Grey Wolves, whose hopes are pinned on ex-Col. Alparslan Turkes, leader of the neo-Fascist National Action Party.

2. To restore the nation's economy

So far no specific measures have been announced. The Central Bank wants Mr. Ecevit to conclude Turkey's off-and-on talks with the International Monetary Fund. Only then would there be any hope of the massive loans from the big international banks which Turkey needs to keep the economy afloat.

3. To settle the Cypriot dispute

It was an earlier coalition government led by Mr. Ecevit that ordered the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. But the driving force behind the invasion was the other party in the coalition — the National Salvationists led by Mr. Necmettin Erbakan.

Mr. Erbakan stayed on in office under Mr. Demirel, but now, after a long run, he is out, and Mr. Ecevit need defer to him no longer.

On a visit to Ankara the other day Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the U.N. Secretary General, got the impression that "there is a difference now in the approach to the Cypriot problem" and that Mr. Ecevit "is ready to negotiate in a meaningful way."



Turkish Premier Bulent Ecevit in a triumphant mood when his Republican People's Party won general elections last July. (AP wirephoto)

It is thought that Mr. Ecevit is prepared to make territorial concessions to the Greeks if they agree to the transformation of Cyprus into a bi-regional, independent and non-aligned federal state. Turkey's new government has only a wafer-thin majority in parliament, but if it survives and is given a reasonable run the outlook in the eastern Mediterranean will be brighter that it has been for many a long day.



Recent photograph of Belgian industrialist Baron Edouard-Jean Empain who was kidnapped in Paris on Monday. (AP wirephoto)

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